

BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

November 20, 1962

SUBJECT: Invading Cuba

QUESTION:

Why didn't we simply invade Cuba as soon as we discovered the offensive weapons were there and save ourselves the trouble of this prolonged diplomatic palaver?

ANSWER:

We are, as I'm sure you are all aware, living in a dangerous world in which reckless action would have caused the loss of unnecessary lives. Our objective was not, and is not, to have a war with the Soviet Union but to get the Soviet Union to remove their offensive weapons from Cuba.